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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 25 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Press Service of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 114 (b).

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Press Service of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 20 December 1993, the United Nations General Assembly created the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to oversee the protection of human rights throughout the world.

The Azerbaijani Republic welcomes the creation of this post and considers this decision to be an important milestone in the protection of human rights and in the adaptation of the United Nations Charter to the contemporary international situation. By creating this post, the countries of the world have once again affirmed the importance of human rights and the need to protect them as a universal and indivisible category taking precedence over all other considerations. In this connection, Azerbaijan hopes that the High Commissioner will, in particular, play an important and effective role in restoring the flouted rights of more than a million Azerbaijanis who have been forced to flee Armenia and the Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

In Armenia's aggression, Azerbaijan has come up against the brutal ideology and practice of Armenian national chauvinism, the fundamental elements of which are the following:

- Terrorism, ethnic cleansing and territorial expansionism in regard to age-old Azerbaijani territories;

- Genocide against Azerbaijanis, which has been perpetrated since the beginning of the twentieth century;

- A policy of rallying the Armenian people based on ideas of hatred towards the Turkic people, particularly the Azerbaijanis.

In view of the dangerous nature and consequences of this official Armenian policy for the peaceful development and security of the peoples of the region, Azerbaijan urges the High Commissioner to make the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict one of his priorities.

A constructive policy in the field of human rights protection is not possible without condemning all manifestations of national chauvinism and forms of discrimination based on religious, ethnic or other characteristics.